

## **TOWN MEETING COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

Fiscal Year 2008

The Town Meeting Coordinating Committee, according to its charge in the Town Bylaw, serves Town Meeting to provide continuing leadership and organization to Town Meeting. Its seven members are elected by Town Meeting. TMCC works to make Town Meeting function well by helping members of Town Meeting and the public understand how Town Meeting works and by providing information to allow Town Meeting members to make informed votes on articles. It also tries to ensure that meeting procedures and the facilities in the auditorium for sessions serve Town Meeting well.

This year before the Special Fall Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting in the Spring, TMCC:

- held two information forums: an orientation to zoning in November and an introduction to the Community Preservation Act and Joint Capital Planning Committee programs in April.
- with the League of Women Voters of Amherst, held Warrant Review meetings, including an orientation for new Town Meeting members prior to the Spring Warrant Review.
- conducted bus tours to visit sites related to Warrant articles.
- arranged for live coverage and a number of rebroadcasts of the above events on ACTV Channel 17.
- prepared information materials for both Town mailings to Town Meeting members.
- encouraged and publicized precinct meetings.

In addition we:

- increased the number of subscribers to the TMCC email subscription list and the amount of information distributed.
- started an information shelf with Town publications in the Reference Section of the Jones Library.
- made DVDs of all TMCC information programs available to be checked out at the main desk of the Jones Library.
- launched a mentor program for new Town Meeting members.
- requested and received improvements to auditorium lighting for Town Meeting.
- met with the Town Manager to discuss Town Meeting.
- met with the director of ACTV to increase TV coverage and replays of information programs.
- notified Town Meeting members when their terms were expiring.
- reviewed suggestions about Town Meeting.
- worked to post our agendas and minutes on the Town Website as early as possible.
- met with the Town Moderator after Annual Town Meeting and agreed to meet with him at least once a year in order to work together on ways to make Town Meeting function well.

TMCC continues to strive to educate the members of Town Meeting, the people who make up the legislative body of our town government, to enable them to make informed votes on warrant articles.

We are very grateful for the help Kris Pacunas has given us to make information available on the Town Website and we look forward to new opportunities made possible by the redesigned site.

TMCC Members

Margaret R. Roberts, Chair

H. Oldham Brooks, Vice-Chair

Carol Jeannette Gray, Secretary

Judy L. Simpson, Stacker

terms ended May 19, 2008

Philip S. Jackson

Stephanie J. O’Keeffe

Otto L. Stein

elected May 19, 2008

Nonny Burack

Aaron Hayden

Mary Streeter

Hwei-Ling Greeney, Select Board Liaison